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Webster's II

New College Dictionary



Houghton Mifflin Company
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> **-van'quish-a-ble** *adj.*
ness *n.*
Fr. advantage, advantage. 1. An superiority or advantage. 2. Something, as superiority or advantage. 3. ADVAN-

in the forefront: **ADVANCED**.
WARD.
us.] Lacking liveliness, zest, or
va-pid'i-ty (vā-pid'itē, vā,
iv.)

< Lat. *vapor*.] 1. Barely visible
s, or smoke, suspended in the
exists below its critical tem-
plying sufficient pressure. b.
under ordinary conditions, is
of a substance for use in in-
A mixture of a vapor and air,
are burned in an internal-
ing insubstantial or fleeting.
rs. *Archaic.* a. Exhalations
held to affect the mental or
nal depression. — **v-pored**,
— **vi**. 1. To emit vapor. 2. To

formation of vapor.
+ **-fic**.] 1. Producing or turn-
VAPOROUS.
bombastic talk or behavior.
resembling vapor. 2. *Archaic.*
ts. — **va-por-ish-ness** *n.*
d, -iz-ing, -iz-es. To con-
por-iz-a-ble *adj.* — **va-**

vaporizes, esp. a device used

isoline in the fuel line of an
s normal flow of fuel.

to or like vapor. 2. a. Pro-
full of vapors. 3. Insubstan-
ly fanciful: **HIGH-FLOWN**.
por-ous-ness *n.* — **va-**

ed by a vapor in equilibrium

ar. of VAPOR.
< *vaca*, cow < Lat. *vacca*.]

oth < Lat. *vara*, forked pole
and Latin American unit of
09 centimeters, or 32 to 43

) + (RE)ACT(ANCE) + OR.] A
is sensitive to the applied
tor material and an insula-

of *varius*, various.] A mis-

Tending or apt to vary. b.
eviate from an established
quantitative value. — **n**. 1.
tion. 2. *Astron.* A variable
ning any of a set of values.
ty. — **var'i-a-bil'i-ty**,
v.

ctly with output changes.
al-rat', vār'-) *n.* A mort-
market rates and changes
of the loan.

ss varies due to internal
stars.

ct of varying. b. The qual-
ARIATION. c. A difference
ly takes place. 2. A differ-
discrepancy between two
ling. b. The license to en-
ved the zoning variance>
variations from the mean
number of thermodynamic
ilibrium of a system, given
ting: differing.

ē be hw which i pit
or oi noise oo took

var-i-ant (vār'ē-ant, vār'-) *adj.* [ME < OFr. < Lat. *varians*, *variant*,
p.p. of *variare*, to vary.] 1. Having or exhibiting variation. 2. Tend-
ing or apt to vary: **VARIABLE**. 3. Deviating from a standard, usu. by
only a slight difference. — **n**. Something that differs in form only
slightly from something else <a spelling variant>

var-i-ate (vār'ē-it, -āt', vār'-) *n.* [Lat. *variatus*, p.p. of *variare*,
to vary.] 1. **VARIABLE**. 2. *Statistics.* A random variable with a numer-
ical value defined on a given sample space.

var-i-a-tion (vār'ē-ā'shan, vār'-) *n.* 1. a. The act, process, or result
of varying. b. The state or fact of being varied. 2. Extent or degree of
varying <a variation of 20 pounds in weight> 3. Magnetic declination.
4. Something slightly different from another of the same type. 5. *Biol.*
Marked difference or deviation from characteristic form, function, or
structure. 6. *Math.* A function that relates the values of one variable to
those of other variables. 7. *Mus.* a. A form that is an altered version of
a given theme, diverging from it by melodic ornamentation and by
changes in harmony, rhythm, or key. b. One of a series of forms based
on a single theme. 8. A solo dance, esp. one forming part of a larger
work. — **var-i-a-tion-al** *adj.*

var-i-c- *pref.* var. of **VARICO-**.
var-i-cel-la (vār'ē-sel'ā) *n.* [NLat. < *variola*, *variola*.] Chicken pox.
— **var-i-cel'loid'** (-sē'l'oid') *adj.*

var-i-ces (vār'ē-sēz') *n.* pl. of **VARIX**.
var-i-co- or **var-i-** *pref.* [Lat. *varix*, *varic*, *varix*.] *Varix*: varicose
vein; <varicosis>

var-i-co-cele (vār'ē-kō-sel') *n.* [VARICO- + -CELE.] A varicose con-
dition of veins of the spermatic cord or the ovaries, forming a soft tu-
mor.

var-i-col-ored (vār'ē-kūl'ard, vār'-) *adj.* **VARIEGATED** 1.
var-i-cose (vār'ē-kōs') *adj.* [Lat. *varicosus* < *varix*, swollen vein.] 1.
Designating blood or lymph vessels that are abnormally dilated, knot-
ted, and tortuous. 2. That causes unusual swelling.

var-i-co-sis (vār'ē-kō'sis) *n.* [VARICO- + -OSIS.] **VARICOSITY** 1.

var-i-co-si-ty (vār'ē-kōs'itē) *n.* pl. **-ties**. 1. The state of being
varicose. 2. a. A varicose distention or swelling. b. The condition of
having varicose veins.

var-i-cot-o-my (vār'ē-kōt'ō-mē) *n.* pl. **-mies**. [VARICO- + -TOMY.]
Surgical removal of varicose veins.

var-ied (vār'ēd, vār'-) *adj.* 1. Characterized by variety. 2. Modified:
altered. 3. **VARIEGATED** 1. — **var-ied-ly** *adv.*

var-ied thrush *n.* A bird, *Icterus naevius* of western North Amer-
ica, similar to the robin but having a black transverse stripe on its
breast.

var-i-e-gate (vār'ē-i-gāt', vār'ē-gāt', vār'-) *vt.* **-gat-ed, -gat-ing**,
-gates. [Lat. *variare*, *variare* < Lat. *varius*, various.] 1. To change
the appearance of, esp. by marking with different colors: **STREAK**. 2. To
give variety to. — **var-i-e-ga-tion** (-i-gā'shan, vār'ē-gā', vār'-) *n.*
— **var-i-e-ga-tor** *n.*

var-i-e-gat-ed (vār'ē-i-gāt'id, vār'ē-gāt', vār'-) *adj.* 1. Having
streaks, marks, or patches of a different color or colors. 2. Distin-
guished or marked by variety: **DIVERSIFIED**.

var-i-er (vār'ē-ar, vār'-) *n.* One that varies.

var-i-e-tal (vā-rē'itl) *adj.* [Lat. *varietas*.] Of, indicating, or character-
izing a variety, esp. a biological variety. — **var-i-e-tal-ly** *adv.*

var-i-e-ty (vā-rē'itē) *n.* pl. **-ties**. [OFr. *varietate* < Lat. *varietas* <
varius, various.] 1. The quality or state of being various or varied:
DIVERSITY. 2. A number of varied things, esp. of a particular group:
ASSORTMENT <a variety of meats> 3. A group set off from other
groups by a particular characteristic or set of characteristics. 4. *Biol.* a.
A taxonomic category forming a subdivision of a species and consist-
ing of naturally occurring or selectively bred individuals with varying
characteristics. b. An organism, esp. a plant, belonging to such a cat-
egory. 5. A variety show.

variety meat *n.* Meat, as liver or sweetbreads, that has been taken
from a part other than skeletal muscles or that has been processed, as
sausage.

variety show *n.* A theatrical entertainment consisting of suc-
cessive unrelated acts, as songs, dances, and comedy skits.

variety store *n.* A retail store selling varied goods.

var-i-form (vār'ē-fōrm', vār'-) *adj.* [VARIO- + -FORM.] Having a
variety or diversity of forms.

var-i-o- or **var-i-** *pref.* [Lat. *varius*, speckled.] *Variety*: difference
or variation <variometer>

var-i-o-la (vā-rē'ō-lā, vār'ē-ō'lā, vār'-) *n.* [NLat. < Med. Lat., pus-
tule < Lat. *varius*, speckled.] Smallpox.

var-i-o-late (vār'ē-ō-lāt', vār'-) *adj.* Having pustules or marks re-
sembling those of smallpox. — **vt.** **-lat-ed, -lat-ing, -lates**. To in-
oculate with smallpox vaccine.

var-i-o-lite (vār'ē-ō-lit', vār'-) *n.* A basic rock having a pock-
marked appearance due to many rounded, white spherules embedded
in it.

var-i-o-loid (vār'ē-ō-loid', vār'-, vā-rē'ō-loid') *n.* A mild smallpox
in persons who have previously been vaccinated or who have had the
disease before.

var-i-om-e-ter (vār'ē-ōm'ē-tēr, vār'-) *n.* A variable inductor for
measuring variations in terrestrial magnetism.

var-i-o-rum (vār'ē-ōr'əm, -ōr', vār'-) *n.* [Lat. *(editio cum notis)*
variorum, (edition with the notes) of various persons.] 1. An edition of
the works of an author, with notes by scholars or editors. 2. An edition
containing various versions of a text. — **var-i-o-rum** *adj.*

var-i-ous (vār'ē-ās, vār'-) *adj.* [Lat. *varius*.] 1. a. Of diverse kinds
<for various purposes> b. Unlike: different. 2. More than one: SEVERAL
<studied various books on antiques> 3. Versatile: many-sided
<people of various talents> 4. Having a variegated nature or appear-
ance. 5. Being an individual or separate member of a class or group
<The various accounts all differed> 6. *Archaic*: Changeable: variable.
usage: The use of *various* as a collective noun followed by *of*
(*various of the members*) is unacceptable in standard English.

— **var-i-ous-ly** *adv.* — **var-i-ous-ness** *n.*

var-i-sized (vār'ē-sīzd', vār'-) *adj.* Of varying sizes.

var-ix (vār'iks) *n.* pl. **var-i-ces** (vār'ē-sēz') [Lat., swollen vein.] 1.
An abnormally twisted and dilated vein, artery, or lymph vessel. 2.
One of the longitudinal ridges indicating a resting stage in the devel-
opment of the lip of a gastropod shell.

var-let (vār'lit) *n.* [ME < OFr., var. of *vaslet*. — see VALET.] *Archaic*.
1. An attendant or servant. 2. A knight's page. 3. A rascal: knave.

var-let-ry (vār'it-rē) *n.* *Archaic*. A crowd of attendants or menials;
esp. when disorderly: **RABBLE**.

var-mint (vār'mint) *n.* [Var. of VERMIN.] *Informal*. 1. A bird or ani-
mal regarded as undesirable or troublesome. 2. An obnoxious, con-
temptible person.

var-nish (vār'nish) *n.* [ME *vernysshe* < OFr. *vernis* < Med. Lat.
veronix, sandarac resin, prob. < Gk. *Bereiaikē*, Berenice, a city in Cy-
renaica.] 1. An oil-based paint with a solvent and an oxidizing or an
evaporating binder in it for coating a surface with a hard, glossy, thin
film. 2. a. The smooth coating or gloss produced by applying varnish.
b. Something resembling or suggestive of varnish. 3. A deceptively at-
tractive external appearance. — **vt.** **-nished, -nishing, -nishes**.
1. To cover with varnish. 2. To give a smooth and glossy finish to. 3.
To give a deceptively attractive appearance to. — **var-nish-er** *n.*
varnish tree *n.* Any of several trees with milky juice for making
varnish.

var-si-ty (vār'sitē) *n.* pl. **-ties**. [Alteration of UNIVERSITY.] 1. The
principal team representing a university, college, or school in sports or
other competitions. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* A university.

Var-u-na (vār'ā-nā) *n.* [Skt. *Varuṇa*.] *Myth.* The Vedic god of the
skies and seas.

var-us (vār'as, vār'-) *n.* pl. **-us-es**. [Lat., crooked.] Abnormal po-
sitioning of a leg or foot bone.

var-ve (vār-vē) *n.* [Swed. *varv*, layer < *varva*, to bend < ON *hverfa*.] 1.
A sedimentary layer deposited in one year. 2. A pair of distinct layers
of sediment, indicating seasonal deposits.

var-y (vār'ē, vārē) *v.* **-ied, -ying, -ies**. [ME *varien*, to undergo
change < OFr. *varier* < Lat. *variare* < *varius*, various.] — **vt.** 1. To
make or produce changes in attributes or characteristics: **MODIFY**. 2.
To make varied <a song recital that was varied for all tastes> 3. To
express in a different manner <vary the speed> — **vi.** 1. To undergo
or exhibit change <Precipitation varied throughout the year> 2. To
be different: **DEVIATE** <vary from customary styles of dress> 3. To
undergo successive or alternate changes in qualities or attributes.
— **var-y-ing-ly** *adv.*

varying hare *n.* The snowshoe rabbit.

vas (vās) *n.* pl. **va-sa** (vā'zā) [NLat. < Lat., vessel.] An organic vessel
or duct.

vas- *pref.* var. of **VASO-**.

va-sa (vā'zā) *n.* pl. of **VAS**.

vas-cu-la (vās'kyā-lā) *n.* pl. of **VASCULUM**.

vas-cu-lar (vās'kyā-lār) *adj.* [Lat. *vasculum*, dim. of *vas*, vessel.]
1. *Biol.* Of, typified by, or having vessels for transmission or circula-
tion of plant or animal fluids as blood, lymph, or sap. 2. Marked by
vigor and ardor: **PASSIONATE**. — **vas-cu-lar'i-ty** (-lār'itē) *n.*

vascular bundle *n.* A strand of supportive and conductive plant
tissue composed essentially of xylem and phloem.

vas-cu-lar-i-za-tion (vās'kyā-lār-i-zā'shan) *n.* New blood-vessel
formation.

vascular plant *n.* Any of various plants of the division Tracheo-
phyta, which includes the ferns and seed-bearing plants typified by a
system of specialized conductive and supportive tissue.

vascular tissue *n.* Plant tissue made up of vascular bundles.

vas-cu-lature (vās'kyā-lā-choōr', -chār) *n.* Arrangement of blood
vessels in the body or in a bodily organ or part.

vas-cu-lum (vās'kyā-lām) *n.* pl. **-la** (-lā) [Lat., small vessel. — see
VASCULAR.] A small box or case for carrying newly gathered plant spec-
imens.

vas defer-ens (vās' dēf'ēr-enz, -rēnz') *n.* pl. **va-sa def-er-ent-ia**
(vā'zā dēf'ēr-ēn'shē-ā) [NLat., deferent vessel.] The verte-
brate duct that carries sperm from the epididymal duct to the
ejaculatory duct.

vase (vās, vāz, vāz) *n.* [Fr. < Lat. *vas*, vessel.] An open container for
holding flowers or for decoration.

va-sec-to-my (vā-sēk'tō-mē, vā-zēk'tō-mē) *n.* pl. **-mies**. Surgical ex-
cision of a part of the *vas deferens*, used as a method of sterilization.

oo boot ou out th thin th this ū cut ūr urge y young
you abuse zh vision a about, item, edible, gallop, circus

ā pay ár care ā father ě pet ē be hw which
ír pier ô pot ô toe ô paw, for oi noise

ou out th thin th this ŭ cut ūr urge y young
zh vision ɔ about, item, edible, gallop, circus

-derma- or **derm-** or **dermo-** *pref.* [*< Gk. derma, skin.*] Skin
<dermal>
-derma *suff.* [*NLat. < Gk. derma, skin.*] Skin : skin disease *<scler-*